

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Kalinin Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 25 Nov. 1949

SUBJECT Research Island in Lake Seliger, near Ostashkov

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1. The official name of Research Island (Forschungsinsel), as it was called by the German PWs, is unknown to source. It is located in the middle of Lake Seliger, next to Amusement Island, almost halfway between the town of Ostashkov on the south shore and the fishing village of Sloboda on the north. The old town of Ostashkov is about midway on the Velikiye Iuki-Kalinin railroad line. Amusement Island, the western part of which is heavily wooded, is used by the citizens of Ostashkov as a bathing and recreation center. It is reached by a one-and-a-half kilometer ferry ride from the old city. A 250-meter-wide channel separates Amusement Island from Research Island, and three and a half kilometers of open lake separates the latter from the village of Sloboda. The thick woods which cover Research Island scarcely permit a view of the island's main buildings.

2. The island is one and a half kilometers long and one kilometer wide. It gradually rises to a height of 100 meters in the center. Barely perceptible through the woods on the west side of the island are large building complexes which are separated from the billets of the scientists and technicians on the east side. impossible.

side of the "work complexes" the families were able to move freely. Whenever they wished to shop in the city, they were accompanied and observed by officers in civilian clothes.

3. German scientists, whose work contracts are alleged to run up to the year 1950, were already at work on Research Island in the fall of 1945. Besides German scientists and engineers, German workers from the Dresden area are also reported to be on the island. In the summer of 1948 the scientists were sent for and presumably taken to Moscow. There have been no indications that they have returned. still eleven German families (wives and children) on Research Island.

4. definite about activities on Research Island. However, persistent rumors among the citizens of Ostashkov maintain that they are centered around some kind of institute for radiation research

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(Strahlungsforschung). In this connection, civilians and PWs who were in Ostaschkov before 1947 have stated that now and again small light flashes had been noticed in the night sky. Source himself had not observed such phenomena. It is possible that research was terminated with the departure of the scientists in the summer of 1948.

5.

employed approximately 1000 persons on the production of upper leather (Oberleder). About three freight cars of finished leather was shipped daily to Moscow and Leningrad.

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Encl: 1 map

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